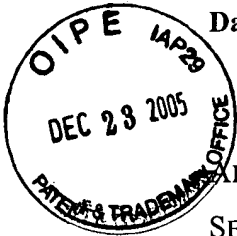


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Attorney Docket No.: 23239-544



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Keefe *et al.*
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/729,581 EXAMINER: Not Yet Assigned
FILING DATE: December 3, 2003 ART UNIT: 1635
FOR: METHOD FOR *IN VITRO* SELECTION OF 2'-SUBSTITUTED NUCLEIC ACIDS

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 23, 2005
Boston, MA

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

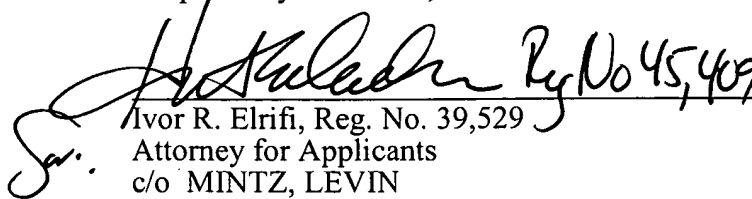
Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-referenced patent application are the following documents:

1. Preliminary Amendment (13 pages); and
2. Return postcard.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 617-542-6000, Boston, Massachusetts. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or to credit any overpayment, to the undersigned's account, Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Ref. No. 23239-544 (ARC-544).

Respectfully submitted,


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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are shown in the listing of claims that begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.